

Spjeldnaes has proposed the rejection of Nicholson's name (and concept) of the species *petropolitana* and the adoption of Dybowski's name (and therefore concept) of *petropolitana* as type species for *Diplotrypa* Nicholson, 1879. Such a course of action would be incorrect and invalid, as Dybowski's concept of *petropolitana* is different from that of Nicholson, and does not belong in *Diplotrypa*, but rather in *Dianulites*. Indeed, this action would lead to the disappearance of *Diplotrypa* Nicholson, 1879, which (contrary to its description) would become a junior synonym of *Dianulites* Eichwald, 1829, and would (as documented in para. 6 of our application) be contrary to the usage of names throughout the 20th century. In our original application we have asked that Pander's authorship of the name be set aside, and that authorship of the type species of *Diplotrypa* be attributed to Nicholson, 1879; this preserves the usage of *Diplotrypa* and its type species.

Additional references

- Nicholson, H.A. 1874. Descriptions of some species of *Chaetetes* from the Lower Silurian rocks of North America. *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London*, **30**: 499–515.
- Nicholson, H.A. 1875a. *Report upon the palaeontology of the province of Ontario*. Hunter, Rose & Co., Toronto.
- Nicholson, H.A. 1875b. On some massive forms of *Chaetetes*, from the Lower Silurian. *Geological Magazine*, (2)**2**: 175–177.
- Nicholson, H.A. 1875c. Description of the corals of the Silurian and Devonian systems. *Palaeontology of Ohio*, vol. 2, part 2 (Palaeontology), pp. 181–242.
- Nicholson, H.A. 1876. Notes on the Palaeozoic corals of the state of Ohio. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (4)**18**: 85–95.

(3) Support for the conservation of the names *Dianulites petropolitana* Dybowski, 1877 and *Diplotrypa petropolitana* Nicholson, 1879 has been received from Professor Roger J. Cuffey (*Department of Geoscience, 412 Deike Building, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, U.S.A.*).

Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Leptodactylus chaquensis* Ceí, 1950 (Amphibia, Anura)

(Case 3172; see BZN **58**: 116–118)

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We are studying the systematics of the complex of frogs associated with the name *Leptodactylus ocellatus*, which includes the species known as *L. chaquensis* Ceí, 1950.

One of us (W.R.H.) has assembled a bibliography of *Leptodactylus*. This is sufficient to support Ceí's statement in his application that the name *L. chaquensis* has been used very extensively for the species (there are at least 156 citations of the

name), and the species is commonly used as a laboratory animal (54 of the 156 references). In contrast, the name *typica* (or *typicus*) has never been used for the species since 1950.

We support the application.

Comment on the proposed precedence of the specific name of *Euphryne obesus* Baird, 1859 over that of *Sauromalus ater* Duméril, 1856 (Reptilia, Squamata)
(Case 3143; see BZN 58: 37–40, 229, 307–308)

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We write to oppose the proposal by Montanucci et al. to give precedence to the specific name of *Euphryne obesus* Baird, 1859 over *Sauromalus ater* Duméril, 1856. In our view this proposal runs counter to promoting stability and universality in nomenclature.

The proposal is based on two issues: first, uncertainty regarding the type locality of *Sauromalus ater*, and second, a greater number of papers using the name *obesus* than the name *ater*.

The uncertain type locality of *Sauromalus ater* is irrelevant to the precedence of the name *ater* relative to the name *obesus*; uncertainty about a type locality is not usually considered sufficient reason for granting precedence to a junior synonym, provided that the synonymy can be established based on characters of the type specimen.

Sauromalus ater is the type species of the genus *Sauromalus*, and *ater* has been in use as a valid name longer than any other specific name in combination with *Sauromalus*. Moreover, following Bocourt's (1870) and Coues's (1875) treatments of *Euphryne obesus* as a junior synonym of *Sauromalus ater*, *ater* was the name used for all the populations of chuckwalla lizards affected by the proposal of Montanucci et